



# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, May 23 2018*

*From the desk of our Pastors . . .*

I have had to stop watching HGTV on a regular basis. While I love tuning into “House Hunter International” and “Caribbean Life” I also know that living in Europe or the Bahamas is not in my future. Therefore, it does not seem like a good use of my time to watch other people renovate their Paris apartment or buy their home in St. Croix.

To drive that point home, my daily pastoral inspiration text on Sunday said, “God does not bless us based on what we want to be. He blesses us based on what we were born to be.”

But sometimes my dreams for who I want to be and God’s plans are not in synch. Just like Tom mentioned on Sunday that he would have liked to have been an astronaut or a great musician, I would love to be a chart-topping singer with millions of hits on YouTube. Sadly, it is not going to happen. I have no musical talent and I can’t sing.

With apologies to Tom, I did get an astronaut connection however. Even though I can’t produce one musical note, God gifted me with a vocal range that was exactly what was needed when NASA was testing the communications systems that were part of the International Space Station (ISS). My pitch and tone fell within the perimeters which the Space Agency needed to verify that sound could travel through space clearly. I don’t understand the engineering

and science behind it but I spent a lot of time with a headset at a console repeating various phrases over and over while people much smarter than me figured out how communicate with the ISS.

The same voice that can't sing a note was used to help the space program. The irony of that makes me laugh but the truth is that I was not born to be a great singer. I was created, in part, to play a small role in the manned space program. That has blessed me in ways I never could have imagined by letting me work with true American heroes and know that I was a tiny part of some great national achievements.

We are all on our own individual paths and our blessings are just as individual. I'll never have the fame, money or recognition of a Kelly Clarkson or Taylor Swift but they will never have the experiences that I have had. I am truly blessed in ways those superstars will never know. I am certain that every one of us has similar examples of very personal blessings that have been gifted to only us.

2 Corinthians 9:8 tells us that "God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, you have all that you need, you will abound in every good work." Sometimes we get so caught up in wishing we had a different house or a better job that we forget about the blessings we have been given. I know you have those priceless blessings you would not trade for anything.

So today, let's stop stressing over what we don't have or won't be and instead focus on what we are and what we have been given. And let us give to God the glory and honor forever.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pastor Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



*From the desk of our Bishop .....*

## Bishop Peggy A. Johnson announces new Cabinet positions

Bishop Peggy A. Johnson announces new Cabinet positions. In response to the Structural Racism Audit of our Annual Conference, sponsored by the Vision Team, Bishop Johnson has added the Director of Strengthening the Black Church to the Extended Cabinet. Rev. Lester N. Justice brings wisdom and insights into serving in an African American church context as well as knowledge about our local churches. He will attend Extended Cabinet meetings and serve in a consultation role to the Appointive Cabinet. Bishop Johnson also announces the new Dean of the Cabinet, Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown, the Easton District Superintendent. Please welcome our sister and brother to their new roles.



[Rev. Dr. Shirlyn Henry Brown](#)



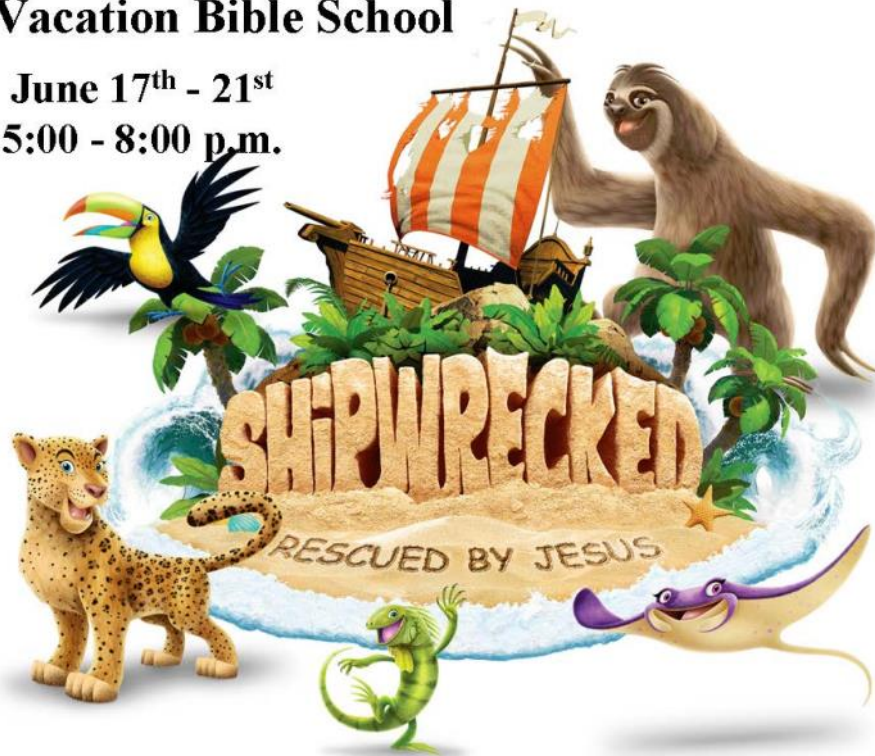
[Rev. Lester N. Justice](#)

# UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Nominations Meeting**—May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Grier Room
- **VBS Meeting**—May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Grier Room

## Vacation Bible School

June 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>  
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.





## Avenue Local Photo Challenge

Two weeks ago the projectors in the sanctuary were replaced thanks to the generosity of a very special donor. The change has really made a positive difference in the visibility of the words and backgrounds that our projection techs use on Sunday mornings. Someone made the suggestion that we should use local pictures as backgrounds for our slide presentations, and we here at Avenue Church think it's a great idea. In honor of the new projectors and warmer temperatures, we are holding the first ever Avenue Photography Challenge!! So, grab your Nikons and iPhones and get out there and snap pictures of our community that we can use for worship. Send us pics of Abbotts Pond, Slaughter Beach, Bicentennial Park, Milford High School, whatever you think would look good on the screen. Submissions are due in via email ([churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com)) by Memorial Day (May 28<sup>th</sup>) and will be judged by a random group of people in the church office sometime that week. Winners will be announced during worship on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our photo contest winner will receive a cool gift basket including a church T-shirt and assorted Fusion swag. So, get snapping and help us fill up our worship photo library.





*Be part of a*  
***GREETER TEAM!!***

Sign up sheet on the table  
in the Foyer

**Help us welcome visitors and guests**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOSPITAL VISITS:** Please help the pastors by calling the church office at (302) 422-8111 when someone from the church is hospitalized.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** is being offered at Avenue Church. An *Information Sheet with Authorization Agreement* is available on the table in Fellowship Foyer. Simply fill out the authorization agreement and return it to the church office.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** If you want to reserve a Sunday please call the church office then call Milford Plant, Flower and Garden Shop at (302) 422-4961. Flowers are placed in the altar vases up by the cross.

**PRAYER CONCERNS PAST WEEK:** The family and friends of Fire Chief Marvin B. Hitch, The family and friends of Clifford W. Haack, The family and friends of Bob Currie, Larry Fortner, Dot Sophos, Don, Pat and the entire Fisher family, Brian Reph, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, Steve LaMotte and family, Emmaus team and pilgrims for the May weekend, Elaine Willey, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, The Hughes family and children, Cole and family, Penny Gillespie, Craig, For all Mothers who have lost a child, Kelly Biesel Williams, Jean Layton, Anita Layfield, Bill and Jill Gustin, Grace Irish, Linda Breedlove, Susan Newark, Paige, Leslee, Alan Jester, John Siegrist, Ron Payne, Robert Mercer, Jim D., Diane W., People who are in hospitals, Mary, Mary Kate, Charlie Harding, Gene Topolski, Gillian Parsons, Traveling mercies for Nancy, Anita Joseph's sister, and her husband and Alma Brittingham.

**Recently hospitalized:** Jay Roosa, Charlie Harding and Gillian Parsons.

**Rejoice with:** All who have an opportunity to serve, All mother's biological or otherwise, The Brennan's and Morgan Robert's as she leads worship at Orchard.

**PRAYER CONCERNS CURRENT WEEK:** The family and friends of Bob Currie, the family and friends of Bonnie Walls, the victims of the school shooting in Texas, everyone impacted by the volcanic activity in Hawaii, Larry Fortner and his daughter, Jennifer Miller and family, Dot Sophos, the Fisher family, Brian Reph, Tommy and Devon Lawhorn, the Emmaus team and pilgrims, Elaine Willey, Christopher, Kirsten Pearce, the Hughes family and children, Cole and family, Craig, Sandy Wooliford, Jean Layton, Anita Layfield, Bill and Jill Gustin, Grace Irish, Mary Kate, Anne, Emily, Linda Breedlove, Susan Newark, Leslee, Alan Jester, Alma Brittingham, Louisa Combs, Ruth Callaway, Georgia Owen, Walter Elliott, Merry, Mary Ellen, David Johnson, and Sister Mary.

**Recently hospitalized:** Holly Maloney

**Rejoice with:** Liam, Annaliese, Donny, Seth, the Florida missionaries, all graduates, Charlie Harding, Jay Roosa, Penny Gillespie, Harry and Meghan, all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month, the hospital auxiliary, all participating in spring concerts, and Finn McPherson.

## **ANNIVERSARY GREETING TO:**

**Sonny and Donna Meck** who will celebrate their **50<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Jeff and Bonnie Carmine** who will celebrate their **53<sup>rd</sup>** anniversary on **May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

## **WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS:**

### **♫Handbells**

Resume on Monday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♫MomentUM Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♫Mispillion Children's Chorus**

Resume on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 p.m., Music Room

### **♫Praise Team**

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **♫Sanctuary Choir**

Resume on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., Music Room

### **♫AveNotes**

Resume on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? If you are interested in using your musical gifts here at Avenue Church please contact Kevin Chamberlain, kbchamberlain@avenueumc.com or (302) 236-1276.

## **UPCOMING**

**2018 VBS:** Shipwrecked VBS (Vacation Bible School), kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. We would love children preschool age to 6<sup>th</sup> grade to come see how Jesus can change lives. Youth Week will be held at the same time for any 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school students (6<sup>th</sup> graders get to choose which they want to be a part of).

**Mark your calendars as Shipwrecked VBS starts on Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>- Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Dinner is at 5pm for your family (adult required to stay with child until 5:45), VBS starts at 5:50pm and ends promptly at 8pm each evening.**

New this year, you can register on-line. Use the link below or pick up a form at church to fill out. If you have any questions, contact the church office (302) 422-8111 or Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

[Shipwrecked: Rescued By Jesus](#)

**VBS Meeting:** On **Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. in the Grier Room. Any questions, please call Sarah Pasmore at (302) 841-3143.

**HELP WANTED! AVENUE GREETER TEAM:** You've probably noticed over the past few months, there's a friendly greeter to welcome you to church. The Avenue Greeter team needs your help. We're inviting you to join and help serve in this ministry. No experience needed, just a friendly smile and some of your time (a few Sunday mornings throughout the year). If you're



interested, we invite you to speak with any of our greeters to better understand our mission. Register today, there's a signup sheet on the lobby table.

**YARD SALE MEETING:** Our next yard sale meeting will be on **June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** in the Grier Room.

**2018 YARD SALE:** The Yard Sale is coming soon! Be sure to save your treasures! We will be serving neighbors and folks recommended to us. **New hours for workers July 23<sup>rd</sup> – July 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. weekdays. No weekends except for Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> after 11:00 a.m. church service to setup. \*Only" Clean—Like New Shoes will be accepted this year. ☺**

### **WHY RED?**

As we celebrated high holy days of Easter, we enjoyed the beautiful white paraments which symbolize purity, holiness and virtue. Now we move into the season of Pentecost, and change the color of the paraments to red. The color of fire, red symbolizes the presence of God.

The symbols on the altar paraments are the initials, I H S, the first three letters of the Greek spelling of the Holy Name of Jesus. This is the symbol of the Holy Name of Jesus.

The Patonce Crosses on each side of I H S have expanded ends, with three petals on each arm.

The three petals represent the Trinity, and the total of twelve petals represent the Apostles. The Crosses on the lectern and pulpit are also Patonce crosses.

### **SUNDAY WORSHIP AND SAFETY**

Our greeter teams wanted to remind everyone that on Sunday mornings during worship all the doors, except for the main entrance facing the Milford Women's Club, will be locked from 10 minutes after the service starts until 10 minutes before the service ends. This is being done for all of our safety, and to limit ingress from anyone wishing to cause our parishioners harm. If you have any questions about this policy or want more information, please contact the trustees, the safety team, or the church office. We will try to get you an answer as quickly as we can.

**SUMMER SEND OFF** will be on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

## **SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES/MINISTRIES**

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP:** The Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group will meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.** The next meeting will be **June 11<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m. in the Grier Room.

**TUESDAY MORNING SISTERS' BIBLE STUDY:** We will be meeting on **June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>** in the **Grier Room at 10:00 a.m.** Any questions contact Ginny Van Tine (302) 422-4282, Brenda Powers (302) 422-8821 or leave a message in the church office if you would like to join us.

**WEDNESDAY DISCIPLE CLASS** meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Holzmüller Room. On **May 23<sup>rd</sup>** we will continue exploring the Bible. To register, please call Josh Willey at (302) 422-8952.

**SUNSHINE BIBLE STUDY:** The Sunshine Bible class lessons for May will be entitled "Give Praise to God." May 27<sup>th</sup>, "Rejoicing in Restoration" based on Psalm 34:1-10; Hebrews 2:17-18. The Sunshine Bible Class meets at 9:30 AM Sunday mornings in the Grier Room. All are welcome.

**KNIT/CROCHET GROUP:** All the scarf kits have been picked up. As the scarves are finished, please turn them into the office for placement where needed. The current project is making 6"x 9" rectangles, either crocheted or knitted, using worsted yarn, to be used in lap robes for the Veterans Home. Any questions, please call Mary Lou Sheaffer or Carolyn Humes.

## **OUTREACH**

**AVENUE PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR.** Registration is ongoing for a limited number of spots for the 2018-19 school year, which is the preschool's **51<sup>st</sup>** year providing early education services in the community. To be eligible, a child must be at least 36-months old on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>. Registration must be done in person. Contact the Preschool Director, Paula Yeich, and at (302) 422-8775 for information or send an email to: [office@avenuepreschool.org](mailto:office@avenuepreschool.org). Be sure to visit our Facebook page and website at: [www.avenuepreschool.org](http://www.avenuepreschool.org). **SPACE IS LIMITED.**

## **COMMUNITY**

**MATTHEW PROJECT** is in need of Girls clothes (12 mos), crib and toys. Please call Joanne Burbage at (302) 422-6152. Thanks!

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** Let's make the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of this month boxed macaroni and cheese for Food Pantry Sunday.

### **LAST WEEK AT AVENUE**

Attendance:	2017	2018
8:00	60	60
9:30	142	160
Sunday School	56	23
11:00	54	68
FUSION	42	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>335</b>

## **CALENDAR**

### **SUNDAY 5/27**

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir , Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship

### **MONDAY 5/28 ~ Memorial Day**

#### **Church Office Closed**

- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Room 206

### **TUESDAY 5/29**

- 6:00 p.m. MomentUM, Wesley Room
- 7:00 p.m. Nominations Meeting,  
Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Central Delaware Chess Club,  
Room 206
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Team Rehearsal,  
Wesley Room

### **WEDNESDAY 5/30**

- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Group, Grier Room
- 6:30 p.m. Pride of Delmarva,  
Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. VBS Meeting, Grier Room
- 7:00 p.m. Disciple 1 Class,  
Holzmueller Room

### **THURSDAY 5/31**

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Reunion Group,  
Conference Room
- 11:00 a.m. AA, Wesley Room
- 2:15 p.m. Women's Emmaus Reunion,  
Room 202

### **FRIDAY 6/1**

- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### **SATURDAY 6/2**

- 10:00 a.m. Concert Series: Music School  
Recitals, Sanctuary
- 2:00 p.m. Concert Series: Cantabile  
Women's Chorus, Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. AA, Wesley Room

### **SUNDAY 6/3 ~ Communion**

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir, Music Room
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Concert Series: Music School  
Recital, Sanctuary
- 3:00 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 272,  
Heritage Room
- 5:00 p.m. FUSION Summer Send Off